

the future if we continue to put off Social Security, the longer we put off the solution, the more drastic the solution has to be; and I know that because this is my fifth Social Security bill that I am introducing next week.

I thank our pages this late at night. Let me just wrap this up. Our two pages working this late in the evening, one from New Jersey and one from Arizona. So I thank the pages, and I am about to conclude.

□ 2350

Seventy-eight percent of families pay more in payroll taxes than in the income tax. The percentage of families that pay less in payroll taxes than income taxes is 22 percent, so the reciprocal is 78 percent. We have raised Social Security taxes so much on the workers that 78 percent pay more in the Social Security tax than they do in the income tax.

Personal retirement accounts, they do not come out of Social Security. They become part of your Social Security retirement benefits. A worker will own his or her own retirement account and is limited to safe investments that will earn more than the 1.9 percent paid by the Social Security. Actually it is 1.7 percent.

The findings of the House Committee on the Budget Task Force on Social Security that I chaired several years ago, 4 years ago, after we heard all of the testimony over a period of a year, we all agreed, Republicans and Democrats, that we have got to do something, that Social Security is going broke, that we need to have some guidelines to guide us in how we revise Social Security, and the guidelines essentially boiled down to three statements. Number one was that we should not affect existing retirees; number two, that workers should be able to be even better off with retirement benefits than they are today; and the third proposition is that somehow the changes should not damage our economy in America, but actually improve the economy. That is why savings and investment is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to be prepared when their constituents ask them what are they going to do about solving the Social Security problem.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ACKERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 7:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JEFFERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SMITH of Michigan) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, September 9 and 10.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 5, 2003, at 9 a.m.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,

Washington, DC, September 4, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 303(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)), I am transmitting on behalf of the Board of Directors the enclosed notice of proposed procedural rulemaking regulations under Section 303 of the Act for publication in the Congressional Record.

The Congressional Accountability Act specifies that the enclosed notice be published on the first day on which both Houses are in session following this transmittal.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Chair.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995: Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

Introductory Statement: Shortly after the creation of the Office of Compliance in 1995, Procedural Rules were adopted to govern the processing of cases and controversies under the administrative procedures established in Title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("CAA," 2 U.S.C. 1401-1407). Those Rules of Procedure were slightly amended in 1998. The existing Rules of Procedure are available in their entirety on the Office of Compliance's web site: www.compliance.gov. The web site is fully compliant with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

Pursuant to section 303(a) of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1383(a)), the Executive Director of the Office has obtained approval of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance regarding certain amendments to the Rules of Procedure. Having obtained the Board's approval, the Executive Director must then "publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking . . . for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following such transmittal." (Section 303(b) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).)

NOTICE

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Office of Compliance set forth in this NOTICE are invited for a **period of thirty (30) days** following the date of the appearance of this NOTICE in the Congressional Record. In addition to being posted on The Office of Compliance's section 508 compliant web site (www.compliance.gov). This NOTICE is also available in the following alternative formats: Large Print, Braille. Requests for this NOTICE in an alternative format should be made to Bill Thompson, Executive Director or Alma Candelaria, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Compliance, at 202/724-9250 (voice) or 202/426-1912 (TDD).

Submission of comments must be made in writing to the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, 110 Second Street, S.E., Room LA-200, Washington, D.C. 20540-1999. It is requested, but not required, that an electronic version of any comments be provided on an accompanying computer disk. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to the Executive Director at 202-426-1913 (a non-toll-free number.) Those wishing to receive confirmation of the receipt of their comments are requested to provide a self-addressed, stamped post card with their submission.

Copies of submitted comments will be available for review at the Office of Compliance, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999, on Monday through Friday (non-Federal holidays) between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Supplementary Information: The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. The CAA applies the rights and protections of 11 federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch of Government. Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1381) establishes the Office of Compliance as an independent office within that Branch. Section 303 (2 U.S.C. 1383) directs that the Executive Director, as the Chief Operating Officer of the agency, adopt rules of procedure governing the Office of Compliance, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance. The rules of procedure establish the process by which alleged violations of the 11 laws made applicable to the Legislative Branch under the CAA will be considered and resolved. The rules include procedures for counseling, mediation, and election between filing an administrative complaint with the Office of Compliance or filing a civil action in U.S. District Court. The rules also include the process for the conduct of administrative hearings held as the result of the filing of an administrative complaint, and for appeals of a decision by a hearing officer to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, and for an appeal of a decision by the Board of Directors to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The rules also contain other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operation of the Office of Compliance.

These proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure are the result of the experience of